

animal from gnawing the rope. The beast hangs suspended in the air at the mercy of the villagers, who dispatch him by means of clubs or bamboos hardened in the fire, and pointed at the end so as to resemble pikes.

Arrived at the highest point of the ascent over *Koyandowng*, the large and pretty town of *Rambree*, surrounded with hills and divided by a creek that is seen in the distance meandering towards the sea, appears spread out to view in the vale below.

(To be continued.)

III.—*Memorandum of an Excursion to the Tea Hills which produce the description of Tea known in Commerce under the designation of Ankoy Tea.* By G. J. GORDON, Esq.

[Communicated by Dr. N. WALLICH, Sec. Com. Tea Culture.]

Having been disappointed in my expectations of being enabled to visit the Bohea hills, I was particularly anxious to have an opportunity of personally inspecting the tea plantations in the black-tea district of the next greatest celebrity, in order to satisfy myself regarding several points relative to the cultivation on which the information afforded by different individuals was imperfect or discordant.

Mr. GUTZLAFF accordingly took considerable pains to ascertain, for me, from the persons who visited the ship, the most eligible place for landing with the view of visiting the Ankoy hills; and Hwuy Taou bay was at length fixed upon as the most safe and convenient, both from its being out of the way of observation of any high Chinese functionaries who might be desirous of thwarting our project, and from its being equally near the tea-hills, as any other part of the coast, at which we could land. As laid down in the map of the Jesuits, there is a small river which falls into the head of this bay, by which we were told we should be able to proceed a good part of our way into the interior. We should of course have preferred proceeding by the Ankoy river, which is represented in the same map as having its source to the west of Ngau-ki-hyen and falling into the river which washes Sneu-chee-foia, were it not for the apprehension of being impeded or altogether intercepted by the public functionaries of that city. In order to make ourselves as independent as possible of assistance from the people, we resolved to dispense with every article of equipment which was not necessary for health and safety. The weather had for some days been comparatively cold, the thermometer falling to 55° at sunrise and not getting higher than 66° during the

day, so that warm clothing not only became agreeable, but could not be dispensed with during the nights; arms for our defence against violence from *any* quarter, formed likewise a part of our equipments, and, trusting to money, and Mr. GUTZLAFF'S intimate knowledge of the language and of the people for the rest, we left the ship on the morning of Monday, 10th November, proceeding in the ship's long boat towards the head of the bay, where the town of Hwuy Taou is situated.

The party in the boat consisted of Mr. GUTZLAFF, Mr. RYDER, (second officer of the "Colonel Young,") Mr. NICHOLSON, late quartermaster of the "Water Witch," whom I had engaged for the projected Woo-re journey, and myself, one native servant and eight lascars. The wind being unfavourable, we made rather slow progress by rowing, but taking for our guidance the masts of some of the junks which we observed lying behind a point of land, we pulled to get under it, in order to avoid the strength of the ebb tide, which was now setting against us. In attempting to round the point, however, we grounded, and soon found that it was impossible to get into the river on that side, on account of sand-banks which were merely covered at high water, and that it was necessary to make a considerable circuit seaward to be able to enter. This we accomplished, but not till 1 A. M. At this time a light breeze fortunately springing up, we got on very well for some time, but were again obliged to anchor, at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 2, from want of water. As the tide rose we gradually advanced towards the town of Hwuy Taou, till we came to one of those bridges, of which there are several along the coast, that extend over wide sand-flats that are formed at the mouths of the rivers. These bridges are constructed of stone piers with slabs of stone laid from pier to pier, some extending over a space of 25 feet and upwards, and others being from 15 to 20 feet space. As the length of this bridge cannot be less than three quarters of a mile, the whole is very striking as a work of great labour, if not exhibiting either much skill or beauty. We were informed by some boat people that we should not find water to carry us beyond the bridge, but observing some tall masts on the other side, we resolved on making the experiment and pushing on as far as we could. It was almost dark when we passed under the bridge, and we had not proceeded far when we were again aground. This, however, we attributed to our unacquaintance with the channel, and as the tide floated us off, we continued advancing, notwithstanding the warning of a friendly voice from the bridge that entreated us to return to the town, promising us comfortable quarters, and a guide, &c. Being rather distrustful of the motives for this advice,

however, we proceeded for some time longer, but at length found it impossible to proceed farther, the ebb having at the same time commenced. We therefore spread an awning, and prepared to make ourselves as comfortable as possible for the night. The day had been the warmest we had experienced for a month past, but the night was very cold, and our boats, as may be imagined, far from commodious for so many people. At day-light we found that there was not six inches of water in any part of the channel, and from the boat we stepped at once upon dry sand. The survey from the bank showed us plainly that it would be impossible to proceed any farther by water. We accordingly prepared to march on foot, taking with us three lascars who might relieve each other in carrying our cloak-bag of blankets and great coats, as well as some cold meat. We ordered the people to prepare a meal as fast as possible, intending to make a long stretch at first starting, and Mr. NICHOLSON was directed to remain in charge of the boat with five lascars, to move her down under the bridge on the return of the flood, and there to wait our return for four or five days. Crowds of people now began to crowd round the boat, moved by mere curiosity. Mr. GUTZLAFF induced some of them to get ducks and fowls for the use of the boat's crew, and strange to say prevailed on one man to become our guide, and on two others to undertake to carry our baggage, as soon as we should be a little farther off from the town and out of the way of observation.

After a little, an old gentleman made his appearance on a chair who proved to be the head man of the town: he inquired whence we came and whither we were going, which we freely told him. With these answers he seemed perfectly satisfied, probably from finding them correspond with what he had been already told by some of the people with whom we had communicated on the subject in seeking information and assistance. He measured our boat with his arms, but offered us no obstruction nor even remonstrance. We observed him, however, after he had interrogated us, sending off two or three messengers in different directions, which made us the more anxious to be off. It was however past 9 o'clock before Mr. RYDER had completed his arrangements for the boat's crew, and the sun was already powerful. We were soon joined by our guide and the coolies, and our cavalcade winding along the foot paths, which are the only roads to be met with, made an imposing appearance. Mr. GUTZLAFF and the guide led the way, followed by a lascar with a boarding pike; next came the baggage, attended by a lascar similarly armed. I followed with pistols, and attended by a lascar armed with a cutlass, and Mr. RYDER carrying a fowling piece and pistols brought up the rear. Skirting the town of

Hwuy Taou, we proceeded in a N. N. E. direction at a moderate pace for an hour and a half, when we stopped at a temple, and refreshed ourselves with tea. Nothing could be more kind or more civil than the manners of the people towards us hitherto, and if we could have procured conveyance here so as to have escaped walking in the heat of the day loaded as we were with heavy woollen clothes, we should have had nothing farther to desire ; as it was, my feet began already to feel uncomfortable from swelling, and after another hour's marching, I was obliged to propose a halt till the cool of the evening. Fortunately we found, however, that chairs were procurable at the place, and we accordingly engaged them at half dollar each. These were formed in the slightest manner, and carried on bambu poles, having a cross bar at the extremities, which rested on the back of the bearer's neck, apparently a most insecure as well as inconvenient position ; but, as the poles were at the same time grasped by the hands, the danger of a false step was lessened. We had not advanced above a mile and a half before the bearers declared they must eat, and to enable them to do so, they must get more money. With this impudent demand we thought it best to comply, giving them an additional real each. After an hour's further progress we were set down at a town near the foot of the first pass which we had to cross. There the bearers clamourously insisted on an additional payment before they would carry us any further. This we resisted, and by Mr. GUTZLAF's eloquence gained the whole of the villagers who crowded round us, to join in exclaiming against the attempted extortion. Seeing this the rogues submitted and again took us up. Mr. G. mentioned that while we were passing through another village, the people of which begged the bearers to set us down that they might have a look at us, they demanded 100 cash as the condition of compliance. The country through which we passed swarmed with inhabitants, and exhibited the highest degree of cultivation, though it was only in a few spots that we saw any soil which would be deemed in Bengal tolerably good ; rice, the sweet potatoes, and sugar-cane were the principal articles of culture. We had now to ascend a barren and rugged mountain, which seemed destined by nature to set the hand of man at defiance ; yet, even here there was not a spot where a vegetable would take root, that was not occupied by at least a dwarf pine, planted for the purpose of yielding fire-wood, and a kind of turpentine ; and wherever a nook presented an opportunity of gaining a few square yards of level ground by terracing, no labour seems to have been spared to redeem such spots for the purpose of rice cultivation. In ascending the pass we soon came to places where it was difficult for our bearers to find a

footing, and where they had consequently to pick out their steps as they advanced. To assist themselves they gave the chair a swinging motion with which they kept time in raising their feet.

This was far from agreeable, and the first impression felt was that it was done merely to annoy, but we very soon saw that the object was different. The highest point of the pass I should conjecture to be about 1200 feet above the plain, and the descent on the north side to be nearly equal to the ascent from the south, say 1000 feet. At half-past four we arrived at a rather romantic valley, which was to be our halting place for the day. We proposed to the bearers to carry us on another stage next day, but for this they had the impudence to ask five dls. per chair. This of course we would not listen to for a moment, and were afterwards happy that we got rid of such rascals, as good bearers and on moderate terms were procurable at the place. The name of this village is Lung-tze-kio. It seems once to have been a place of greater importance than now, exhibiting marks of dilapidation and decay. Even the foot-path over the pass must have been at one time an object of attention, as we found in several places the remains of a sort of pavement, and of bridges which were now nearly destroyed. The inn at which we stopped afforded as few and mean accommodations as could well be imagined, but we were able to get some fowls deliciously grilled, on which, with the aid of sweet potatoes, and of the salt beef which we brought with us, we made a most hearty repast. Among the people who came to see us at the inn was a very respectable looking young man, a student, who won Mr. GUTZLAFF'S heart by asking him for instruction in religion. Unfortunately the whole contents of a box of religious tracts, and other books had been distributed in the morning, and Mr. G. was unable to supply him with any. The request was no doubt prompted by the report of the people who had accompanied us, and who had themselves partaken of Mr. G.'s liberality before they volunteered. This young man strongly recommended to us to alter our course, magnifying the distance of Twa-Bo to which we were bound to 100 *li* or 30 miles, and telling us that at the distance of 40 *li* or 12 miles to the S. W. we should find tea plantations of a very superior description. The exaggeration of the distance led me to suspect the accuracy of the information in other respects, and I had heard enough of contradictory evidence already, not to be swayed by it in the present instance.

Nov. 12th.—Got into our chairs at a quarter past six A. M. and proceeded along a narrow rugged dell to a town called Koe-Bo. Several nice looking hamlets were seen on the way. The people were engaged

in reaping the rice, which seemed heavy and well filled in the ear. In several places I observed that they had taken the pains to tie clumps of rice stalk together for mutual support. Sugar-cane is bound in the same way, and for additional security the outside canes are mutually supported by diagonal leaves, which serve at the same time to form them into a kind of fence. The leaves are not tied up round the stalks as in Bengal; the cane is slender, white, hard, and by no means juicy or rich; yet, bating the black fungus powder, which is very prevalent, their surface is healthy, and close growing in a remarkable degree. We arrived at Koe-Bo at eight o'clock, and finding we could get water conveyance for part of the way on which we were proceeding, we engaged a boat for that purpose. After a hearty breakfast we embarked at 10 A. M. amidst crowds of people who covered the banks of the river at the ghát. On inquiry we found that the river on which we were proceeding in a W. N. W. course, was the same which we passed at Gan-Ke-Luyu, and flowed to Suen-chee-foo. The boat was large, but light, and being flat-bottomed drew very little water. The stream was so shallow that it was only by tracing the deepest part of the channel from side to side of its bed that we were able to advance at all. This was done by poling; in several places the stream was deepened by throwing up little banks of sand so as to confine its course within a channel merely wide enough for the boats to pass through. I estimate the width from bank to bank at 200 yards, and should judge from the height at which sugar is cultivated above the level of the present surface, that the greatest depth in the rainy season does not exceed 10 feet. Being entirely fed by mountain torrents its rise must be often very sudden, but I did not observe any traces of devastation in its course. Its name, Ghan-ke or "peaceful stream," is probably derived from this circumstance; the valley on each side seemed well cultivated, the banks being principally occupied by sugar-cane. At every village the people poured as usual to see us out, vying with each other in marks of civility and kindness. The day, however, becoming very hot, we took shelter from the sun under the roof of the boat, to the disappointment of many who waded through the water to gratify themselves with a sight of the strangers. Coming at last to a high bank close to a populous town, they actually offered the boatman 400 cash if he would bring us to; and on his refusal, the boys began pelting the boat with clods and stones. On this Mr. GUTZLAFF went on deck to remonstrate, and Mr. RYDER to intimidate with his gun. Betwixt both the effect was instantaneous, and the seniors of the crowd apologised for the rude manner in which the boys had attempted to enforce the gratification of their curiosity. We had been in vain all

yesterday and to-day looking out for a glimpse of tea plantations on some of the rugged and black looking hills close in view, though at almost every place where we halted we were assured that such were to be found hard by. At three p. m. we reached a town near the foot of the pass by which we were to reach Taou-ee, the place of our destination. There we proposed selling our gold, which for the sake of lightness I had brought with me in preference to silver, not doubting that I should find little difficulty in exchanging it at its proper relative value whenever required. In this, however, we had been disappointed at our last abode, and we were therefore much vexed at learning from our conductors that the inhabitants of Aou-ee were of such a character that the less we had to do with them and the shorter our stay amongst them the better. Some proof of this we had as we were stepping on shore, being for the first time rudely questioned as to our destination and object, and why we had come armed; our reply to the latter query being, that we had armed ourselves with the resolution of resisting violence should it be offered by robbers or others, we were allowed to pass quietly on. The hill we had now to ascend was more rugged, and in some places more abrupt, than that over which we were first carried; and though we had set out at three o'clock, the sun had set long before we came to the end of our journey. The moon was unfortunately obscured by clouds, so that nothing could be more unpleasant than the unfortunate *hits* our toes were constantly making against stones, and the equally unfortunate *misses* where an unexpected step downwards made us with a sudden jerk throw our weight on one leg. At length we reached a village at the further end of the pass, the inhabitants of which were so kind as to light us on the remainder of our way, by burning bundles of grass, to the eminent danger of setting fire to their rice fields now ripe for the sickle. Arrived at Taou-ee we were hospitably received by the family of our guide, and soon surrounded by wondering visitors.

Mr. GUTZLAFF speedily selected one or two of the most intelligent of them, and obtained from them ready answers to a variety of questions regarding the cultivation of the plant. They informed him that the seed now used for propagating the plant was all produced on the spot, though the original stock of this part of the country was brought from *Wae-eshan*, that it ripened in the 10th or 11th month, and was immediately put into the ground where it was intended to grow, several being put together into one hole, as the greater part was always abortive. That the sprouts appeared in the 3rd month after the seeds were put into the ground, that the hole into which the seeds were thrown are from three to four inches deep, and that as the plants grow the earth

is gathered up a little round their root; that leaves are taken from the plants when they are three years old, and that there are from most plants four pluckings in the year. No manure is used, nor is goodness of soil considered of consequence, neither are the plants *irrigated*. Each shrub may yield about a *Tael* of *dry* tea annually (about the 12th of a pound). A Mow of ground may contain three or four hundred plants. The land tax is 300 cash (720¹/₂ dol.) per Mow. The cultivation and gathering of the leaves being performed by families without the assistance of hired labourers, no rate of wages can be specified; but as the curing of the leaf is an art that requires some skill, persons are employed for that particular purpose, who are paid at the rate of 1 dl. per pecul of fresh leaf, equal to five dollars per pecul of dry tea. The fire-place used is only temporary, and all the utensils as well as fuel are furnished by the owner of the tea. They stated that the leaves are heated and rolled seven or eight times. The green leaf yields one-fifth of its weight of dry tea. The best tea fetches on the spot 23 dls. per pecul, (133¹/₂ lbs.) and the principal part of the produce is consumed within the province, or exported in baskets to Formosa. That the prevailing winds are north-westerly. The easterly winds are the only winds injurious to the plants. Hoar frost is common during the winter months, and snow falls occasionally, but does not lie long nor to a greater depth than three or four inches. The plant is never injured by excessive cold, and thrives from 10 to 20 years. It is sometimes destroyed by a worm that eats up the pith and converts both stem and branches into tubes, and by a gray lichen which principally attacks very old plants. The period of growth is limited to six or seven years; when the plant has attained its greatest size. The spots where the tea is planted are scattered over great part of the country, but there are no hills appropriated entirely to its culture. No ground in fact is formed into a tea plantation that is fit for any other species of cultivation, except perhaps that of the dwarf pine already alluded to, or the *Camellia Obeifora*. Mr. GUTZLAFF understood them to say that the plant blossoms twice a year, in the eighth moon or September, and again in winter, but that the latter flowering is abortive. In this I apprehend there was some misapprehension, as seed of full size, though not ripe, were proffered to me in considerable quantities early in September, and none were found on the plants which we saw. I suspect that the people meant to say that the seeds take eight months to ripen, which accords with other accounts. We wished much to have spent the following day (the 13th) in prosecuting our inquiries and observations at Tawand and its neighbourhood, but this was rendered impracticable by the state of our finances. We had plenty of gold, but no one could be found who

would purchase it with silver at any price. We therefore resolved on making the most of our time by an early excursion in the morning previous to setting out on our return.

We accordingly got up at day-break, and proceeded to visit the spot where the plants were cultivated. We were much struck with the variety of the appearance of the plants; some of the shrubs scarcely rose to the height of a cubit above the ground, and those were so very bushy that a hand could not be thrust between the branches. They were also very thickly covered with leaves, but these were very small, scarcely above $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in length. In the same bed were other plants with stems four feet in height, far less branchy and with leaves $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches in length. The produce of great and small was said to be equal. The distance from centre to centre of the plants was about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and the plants seemed to average about two feet in diameter. Though the ground was not terraced, it was formed into beds that were partly levelled. These were perfectly well dressed as in garden cultivation, and each little plantation was surrounded by a low stone fence, and a trench. There was no shade, but the places selected for the cultivation were generally in the bottoms of hills, where there was a good deal of shelter on two sides, and the slope comparatively easy. I should reckon the site of the highest plantations we visited to be about 700 feet above the plain, but those we saw at that height and even less appeared more thriving, probably from having somewhat better soil, though the best is little more than mere sand. I have taken specimens from three or four gardens. Contrary to what we had been told the preceding night, I found that each garden had its little nursery where the plants were growing to the height of four or five inches, as closely set as they could stand; from which I conceive that the tea plant requires absolutely a *free* soil, *not wet* and *not clayey*, but of a texture that will retain moisture; and the best site is one not so low as that at which water is apt to spring from the sides of a hill, nor so high as to be exposed to the violence of stormy weather. There is no use in attempting to cultivate the plant on an easterly exposure, though it is sufficiently hardy to bear almost any degree of dry cold.

By half-past 10 A. M. we set out on our return, in chairs which we were fortunate enough to procure at this village, and reached the banks of the river at Aou-ee a little before one o'clock. In the first part of our way we passed by some more tea plantations on very sterile ground. One in a very bleak situation, with nothing but coarse red sand by way of soil, seemed to be abandoned. Our reception at Aou-ee was much more civil than it had been the preceding

day; the people suggested that we should remain there till a boat could be procured. The day, however, being tolerably cool, we crossed the river, and proceeded on foot along its banks to Kre-bo, where we arrived about four P. M. On the road a man who had seen us endeavouring to sell our gold the day before, told us he believed he could find us a purchaser. Mr. GUTZLAFF accordingly accompanied him to the house of a farmer, who after having agreed to give 18 dollars for 30 dollar's worth of gold, suddenly changed his mind, and said he would only give weight for weight. At Koe-Bo, however, we were more successful, procuring 18 dollars for the same 30 dollar's worth of gold. On the road the villages poured forth their population as we moved along. At one place they were actually overheard by Mr. GUTZLAFF thanking our guides for having conducted us by that road, and proposing to raise a subscription to reward them. At Kre-bo we learned that some petty officers had been inquiring after us, which frightened our guides, and made us desirous to hasten our return. Having procured chairs we pushed on accordingly to Koe-ee, our first resting place, where we arrived about seven P. M., and halted for the night. Next morning, the 14th, we mounted our chairs before day-break, but after going a little way the bearers let us down to wait for day-light, and we took the opportunity of going to look at a Chinese play which was in the course of performance hard by. There were only two actors but several singers, whose music to our barbarian ears was far from enchanting. Crossing the pass we met great numbers of people carrying salt in baskets hung in bangies, as in Bengal, a few with baskets full of the small muscle reared on the mud flats near the place of our landing. After getting into the plain we took a more direct road for Taou than that by which we had left it. The people forsook their work on the fields, and emptied their numerous villages to gaze at us. As the morning was cold I wore a pair of dark worsted gloves, which I found excited a good deal of speculation. The general opinion was, that I was a hairy animal, and that under my clothes my skin was covered with the same sort of fur as my hands. In China gloves are never worn. At length one more sceptical than the rest resolved to examine the *paw*, and his doubt being thus further strengthened, he requested me to turn up the sleeve of my coat. I did so, at the same time pulling off a glove to the admiration of the multitude, who immediately set up a shout of laughter at those who had pronounced the strangers of a race half man and half baboons. We met some officers in chairs attended by soldiers, but they offered us no interruption, not even communicating with us. Our bearers, however, easily prevailed on theirs to exchange burthens, each party being thus enabled to direct

their course to their respective homes. We arrived at Hwuy Taou before noon, and immediately embarked for the ships, which we reached at three P. M. We learned from Mr. NICHOLSON that after our departure, and while the boat was still aground, a number of Mandarins came down, and carried off almost every thing that was on board, but the whole was returned after the boat was floated down below the bridge. As we had no explanation of the matter, we concluded that this proceeding might have been intended for the protection of the property from plunder by the people of the town. We found that one of the seed contractors had despatched a quantity of Bohea seeds, arrived during our absence, with a letter stating expectation of being able to send a further supply and to procure cultivators, who would join the ship in the 11th or 12th month. On the same evening I embarked on the Fairy, and reached Lintin on Monday the 17th November, with my tea seeds, just one week after our landing at Hwuy Taou to explore the Hwuy tea hills. I have been more minute in my details of this little expedition, than may at first sight appear needful, with the view of showing the precise degree and kind of danger and difficulty attending such attempts. Our expectation was, at leaving the ship, that we should reach the head of the bay by nine or 10 o'clock A. M. and attain a considerable distance from Hwuy Taou the same day, and thus have a chance of passing without attracting the notice of any of the Wanfoo or Government officers. Had we waited to ask their permission it would of course have been refused, and we should have been directed in the most authoritative manner to return to the ship. We were not a little alarmed when aground in the morning, lest the old gentleman who measured our boat should have deemed it his duty to intercept our progress; but we took care to go on with preparations for our march, as if nothing of the kind was apprehended. It is this sort of conduct alone that will succeed in China. Any sign of hesitation is fatal. Had we shown any marks of alarm, every one would have kept aloof for fear of being implicated in the danger which we seemed to dread; on the other hand, a confident bearing, and the testimony borne by the manner in which we were armed, that we would not passively allow ourselves to be plundered by authority, inspired the like confidence in all those with whom we had to do; for the rest of the narrative shows that from the people left to themselves we experienced nothing but marks of the utmost kindness and good nature, except indeed, where money was to be got:—there the Chinese, like the people of other countries, were ready enough to take advantage of the ignorance of strangers, though with such a fluent command of the language as Mr. GUTZLAFF possessed he was able to

save us from much fleecing in that way. I need scarcely add, that no good can result from an attempt to penetrate into the interior of China by a party of foreigners, unless some one of them has at least a moderate facility in expressing himself in conversation with the people.

IV.—*Observations on an Article in Loudon's Magazine of Natural History, on the subject of the Albatross. By Lieut. THOMAS HUTTON, 37th Regt. N. I.*

At page 147 of the 32nd Number of Loudon's Magazine of Natural History, a contributor observes :

“COLERIDGE somewhere in his wild and magical ‘Rime of the Antient Mariner,’ says of the Albatross, whom he introduces as a bird of Omen.”

“ At length did cross an Albatross,
Thorough the fog it came ;
As if it had been a Christian soul,
We hail'd it in God's name.

“ It ate the food it ne'er had eat,
And round and round it flew ;
The ice did split with a thunder-fit,
The helmsman steer'd us through.

“ And a good south-wind sprung up behind,
The Albatross did follow,
And every day for food or play,
Came to the mariners' hollo.”

“Had this Albatross been a sea-gull, the above might have been fact, as well as fancy.”

To which another writer adds, at page 372 of the 34th Number.

“And not less so, it may be remarked, if it be presumed, that COLERIDGE actually speaks of the Albatross itself. This bird is one of the Laridæ, or gull tribe ; and as our correspondent Mr. MAIN has in person remarked to us, ‘ every voyager round the Cape of Good Hope may have observed it to follow and fly round the passing vessel from day to day.’ He added, ‘ this large bird seems to subsist on any animal matter which floats on the water. In their following of ships they are easily caught by a strong hook baited with a bit of pork or beef.— Their body appears emaciated, being small in proportion to the size of their plumage ; as the wings, when extended, measure 9 or 10 feet from tip to tip. They appear to be very stupid birds, perhaps from being broken-hearted, from the paucity of food they meet with 800 miles from the nearest land.’

“Dr. ARNOTT, as quoted by Mr. RENNIE, remarks, ‘How powerful must be the wing muscles of birds which sustain themselves in the sky for many hours ! The great Albatross, with wings extended 14 feet or more, is seen in the stormy solitudes of the southern ocean, accompanying ships for whole days, without ever resting on the waves.’”

“Mr. MAIN, whom apprehension of exceeding the truth always leads to speak within bounds, gives above the spread of the wings at 9 or 10 feet ; Dr. ARNOTT,